

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the first official National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Just yesterday, President Trump signed a bill into law permanently designating March 29 as the day we honor our Vietnam veterans.

Madam Speaker, in many instances, our Vietnam veterans often did not receive a warm welcome home when they returned from war. This is a small step toward giving these brave men and women the recognition they deserve.

It was on this day in 1973 that the last combat troops were ordered out of Vietnam. Forty-four years later, the House and Senate unanimously approved this Federal statute recognizing and honoring our Vietnam veterans who answered the Nation's call and served with honor and distinction.

This effort began in Pennsylvania as the brainchild of Sergeant Harold Redding, a Vietnam veteran from York, Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's own Senator PAT TOOMEY led the charge to make this day a reality.

Madam Speaker, we all know someone who served in Vietnam. Those veterans are our friends, our family, our neighbors. Thank you to all of our Vietnam veterans. May God bless you on this National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

HONORING MAUREEN "MO" GILMAN

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a dear friend, Maureen "Mo" Gilman, who retired on March 17 as the legislative director of the National Treasury Employees Union.

Mo served NTEU with great ability for 31 years after working in this House for former Representatives Sam Gejdenson of Connecticut and Chris Dodd, also of Connecticut.

NTEU represents approximately 150,000 Federal employees working in 31 Federal agencies. Mo has been tireless in the effort to ensure that Federal civilian employees receive the pay, benefits, and workplace protections they deserve. Mo spent a considerable part of her years at NTEU educating Congress and administrations about the important work Federal servants carry out.

At a time when some in Congress and in the current administration are denigrating Federal civil servants, threatening to reduce their pay and benefits and deeply cut the budgets of agencies for which they work, I am more than a little sad to see Mo retire. But as she does, Madam Speaker, I am certain that Mo will keep inspiring us all to continue the fight with the same resolve that she showed every day of her career.

I hope my colleagues will join me, Madam Speaker, in wishing Mo Gilman well and thanking her for her extraordinary work on behalf of our country.

MORE RESOURCES ARE NEEDED TO SECURE OUR BORDER

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, foreign national Tommy Alvarado-Ventura has a string of arrests to his name, including assault, impersonation, drunk driving, and contempt of court. Not to mention that he has been deported four times. And, oh, yes, Madam Speaker, he is an MS-13 gang member.

Despite being deported four times, he made his way back to America. This time, he stabbed a woman in a parking lot. Then he went to a house only to sexually assault a 2-year-old. When his girlfriend saw the bruises on the child, he stabbed her as well. Eventually, NYPD arrested him.

Madam Speaker, our porous border is not secure. Foreign criminals who violently assault and rape women and children in the United States keep coming back to America. Border officials are doing the best they can do with what they have.

But the message is clear: they need more to secure our border. Washington must send more resources, boots on the ground, aerostats, and military equipment, if necessary, to establish a virtual border wall against outlaws like Alvarado-Ventura.

And that is just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE IS NOT EASY, BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, \$880 billion cut from the insurance of hardworking, low-income families; \$600 billion going to the top 1 percent of the richest people in America. Those were the singular features of the TrumpCare bill: not caring for any one of you, but simply taking away and providing for the rich.

Health care in my district and in America is very serious. I heard the testimony for many years of mothers who had autistic children or children with severe disorders, or visited nursing homes where elderly who had worked were there on Medicaid, or maybe heard the pleas of cancer survivors who would not have lived but for the Affordable Care Act and having insurance.

This is nothing to play with. Any suggestion that health care is easy, Mr. Trump, or that we can get together with the moderates is not a direction to go. If you are serious, we are serious. But we are serious about people whose lives are in jeopardy, and we are serious about providing access and health care to all of America, including our rural hospitals and our children's hospitals, who beg for us not to pass TrumpCare.

We are prepared to work on behalf of the American people. Health care is

not easy, but it is essential, it is life-saving. I want to be on the side of saving lives of all Americans. It is not easy and it is not something to fool around with.

HONORING LIEUTENANT FREDERICK DELLECKER

(Mr. YOHO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the loss of a Floridian, a patriot, and one of the Air Force's finest.

Two weeks ago, three servicemembers were lost in a crash of a reconnaissance and surveillance plane in New Mexico. These young men were not just servicemembers serving in our United States Air Force; they were sons, brothers, husbands, and fathers.

In particular, Florida's own Lieutenant Frederick Dellecker, a dedicated first lieutenant, had a long and promising career ahead of him. Lieutenant Dellecker was 26 and known amongst his friends for his legendary humor.

As a veterinarian, I was particularly touched by Lieutenant Dellecker's love of animals. His friends and family recently revealed that, while in pilot training, Lieutenant Dellecker once shared a hotdog with a flea-bitten stray who had just delivered a litter of puppies and was starving. He ended up taking her in and giving her a second chance at a new life.

I would like to take a moment on behalf of all Americans and all of the Members here today to thank him and his family for their service.

Lieutenant Frederick Dellecker, your name will not be forgotten.

CHAIRMAN OF HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE SHOULD DO THE RIGHT THING AND RECUSE HIMSELF

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am someone who believes in this institution. So, Madam Speaker, this week, to me, has been an embarrassment. It is an embarrassment that we here in the House can't have a real, genuine bipartisan investigation by our Intelligence Committee.

Fortunately, this afternoon, the chairman and ranking member—one Democrat and one Republican—of the Senate Intelligence Committee have signaled in a joint press conference that they are interested in having a real investigation.

Wouldn't it be nice if the House of Representatives would do the same?

Madam Speaker, it gives me no pleasure to say this, but the chairman of our House Intelligence Committee has acted in a way that makes a real

investigation in our House impossible. He should do the right thing and recuse himself, and this House should join the Senate in having a real investigation.

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING ANGELINA M. PENNISI STEINER

(Mr. GAETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I come from the State of Florida, where we have many of our citizens who live in nursing homes. Despite the views of some, those residents can live remarkable, productive, and fulfilling lives.

One such resident is Angelina Steiner. Mrs. Steiner lives in the Plant City Senior Center. She shares her talents in weekly poetry readings. She became a member of the Florida Writers Association. In 2014, she published her first book: "Chasing Dreams." Now, her second book: "Beautiful Words Coming My Way" is being published and archived in the Library of Congress.

A loving wife and a mother of four children, Mrs. Steiner is inspired by everyday events. She has the talent to paint beautiful pictures through her poetry, and I am incredibly proud of her.

RECOGNIZING SOCIAL SCIENTISTS FROM THE CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

(Mr. LIPINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the 80 social scientists from the Consortium of Social Science Associations, who are visiting Washington, D.C., today, and to thank them for their hard work keeping our STEM enterprise strong.

They are here to highlight the value of social science research to the Nation, and to support funding for the social, behavioral, and economic sciences in the National Science Foundation budget.

Social science research has provided us with numerous benefits. Some of these include: strengthening cybersecurity by showing us how changes in behavior can eliminate cyber vulnerabilities; making our soldiers safer by working with the Army to improve its cross-cultural training; and saving lives by improving the system of matching kidney donors with patients.

Madam Speaker, we must have strong Federal funding for social science research. Cuts would make America weaker, not greater.

I urge my colleagues to oppose any cuts to social science funding in the NSF budget.

PUTTING ACCOUNTABILITY BACK ON THE EPA

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, tonight I rise to commend the House for passing H.R. 1430, what is known as the HONEST Act. This would put more of the onus on to the Environmental Protection Agency, sometimes known as the employment prevention agency, to disclose where they get their science or where they get their reasoning when they are going to make a regulation upon the people that produce in this country.

My own constituents have suffered from that in my district in northern California, where arbitrary rules are put in place without even the opportunity to face their accuser or what kind of science they are using or what kind of reasoning they are using to put a regulation in place that they have to fight, and fight sometimes for many years, in order to have the opportunity just to use their land, just to use their land for planting crops or for grazing or for other things that would help them with their livelihood, with their economy, like they have been using for so many years, even decades, in their families.

The HONEST Act will put accountability back on the EPA to say you have to come forward with reasoning, with logic, and with science that is publicly available and not hidden from the public so that we can see what you are using to regulate the people.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S TIES WITH RUSSIA

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to continue the call for an independent commission to investigate the President's ties with Russia.

Congress has the responsibility to ensure we investigate these matters appropriately. We must provide the American people with answers, transparency, and accountability. We know that there are issues with the House Intelligence Committee on the Republican side, so it is time that we ask for an independent commission to take the lead.

Let's be honest, at the end of the day, you are the company you keep. So far, President Trump's team has included a national security adviser who was paid by Russian companies to appear at Russian events, a former campaign manager who had a multimillion-dollar contract to advance Putin's agenda, and now we have the issues again with the Republican side of the Intelligence Committee to cover up tracks left by the Trump administration.

As we further untangle the web created by Trump and his team, it is clear that some Republicans are fearful of what potential investigations may reveal. The American people deserve answers.

BUCKLEY V. VALEO REINTRODUCTION

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution: Expressing the sense of Congress that the Supreme Court misinterpreted the First Amendment to the Constitution in the case of Buckley v. Valeo.

This resolution will restore equal footing to all Americans in our Nation's politics.

The landmark Supreme Court case Buckley v. Valeo was decided over 40 years ago. Then-Justice Byron White called the decision "a mortal danger against which effective preventive and curative steps must be taken."

In the wake of the recent Presidential election where spending approached \$5 billion, we clearly see the influence of big money. That money exerts an inordinate amount of influence over our politics. True to form, it appears to have endowed donors with an unusually high number of Cabinet positions in the Trump administration. Over one-third of President Trump's high-level government posts were awarded to megacampaign donors.

Congress must end the current practice of allowing elections to be bought by the highest bidder. If money equals free speech, then lack of money equals lack of free speech.

We must ensure that our campaigns are reflective of the people's voices. Buckley v. Valeo took away this inviolate First Amendment right from the people, and this resolution is the remedy to restore it.

□ 1715

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.J. RES. 17

Mr. SANFORD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor from H.J. Res. 17.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

QUESTIONING THE RUSSIAN CONNECTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members